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WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1965

SECTION I - Staff

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
Margaret Doreen Cuthbert Martin	Medical Officer of Health	1st July, 1963	M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.	Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Wisbech
Donald Brook	Public Health Inspector	11th June, 1957	(a) Certificates of the Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors Examination Joint Board; (b) Certificate of The Royal Society of Health: (i) Meat Inspector (ii) Smoke Inspector (c) Testamur of The Institute of Public Cleansing	Public Health Inspector, Inspector of Canal Boats, Inspector of Common Lodging Houses and Inspector under the Shops and Pet Animals Acts for the Borough of Wisbech

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected By the M.O.H.	Number inspected By the P.H.I.	Number of ships reported as having or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board
Foreign ports	105	26,762 N.R. 62,585 Cargo	Nil	105	Nil
Coastwise	116	16,490 N.R. 39,897 Cargo	Nil	55	Nil
Total	221	43,252 N.R. 102,482 Cargo	Nil	160	Nil

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year

TABLE C

Passenger traffic	(Number of passengers	Inwards: Nil
	(Number of passengers	Outwards: Nil
Cargo traffic	(Principal imports:	Petrol, oil, pig iron, potash, fertilisers, timber
	(Principal exports:	Grain, bricks, coke breeze

Principal ports from which ships arrive: London, Hull, Immingham, Channel Isles, Eire, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Delfzyl, Gdansk, Hamina, Stettin, Kotka, Leningrad, Pateniemi, Wismar

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic

Number using the district Tonnage Places served	None during the year

SECTION V - Water supply

(1) Source of supply for

(a) the district: Wisbech and District Water Board and East Elloe Rural District Council - public supplies

(b) shipping: Wisbech and District Water Board.

(2) Reports of tests for contamination: Monthly reports are supplied by the water undertakers and show a bacteriologically pure and wholesome supply.

(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes: The hydrants and hosepipes used in the supply of water to ships are kept cleansed as far as possible and, when not in use, are stored so as to avoid contamination. By arrangement with the Water Board, the fittings at points of supply were improved to ensure a constant supply of safe water.

(4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats and powers of control by the Authority: There are no water boats.

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

(1) List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6)

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied and the procedure for supplying it to those persons:

The list is kept up by the Medical Officer of Health, who makes amendments thereto as notified to her by the Minister of Health. It is drawn up in a form which sets out the information supplied by the Minister. Any amendments are notified to the Customs Officer and the Pilot Master, the latter being requested to pass details thereof to the pilots.

(2) Radio messages

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district (Regulation 13):

This is not applicable as the port is not a radio transmitting port.

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon (Regulation 14(1)(a) and (2)):

The Authority has no facilities for receiving directly any radio message transmitted by a ship. The ship can, however, get in touch with the Medical Officer of Health through Humber Radio.

(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio (Regulation 14(1)(b)). Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon:

A ship wishing to enter the port waits at the Bar Flat Buoy, which is at the outward limit of the pilotage area, and, under normal circumstances, is boarded there by the pilot. If, on arrival at the ship, the pilot found there was, or there was suspected to be, infectious disease on board, he would return without boarding the ship and inform the Pilot Master. The latter would, in turn, inform the Medical Officer of Health, who would go out to the ship accompanied by the Public Health Inspector.

(4) Mooring stations (Regulations 22 to 30)

Situation of stations and any standing directions issued under the Regulations:

The mooring station is at the Bar Flat Buoy previously referred to, the position of which is latitude 52° 55' 18" N., longitude 00° 16' 40" E. Any ship on board which infectious disease is known or suspected to be present must remain there until permission for it to move is given by the Medical Officer of Health.

(5) Arrangements for

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious disease (other than smallpox - see Section VII):

Cases of infectious disease would be removed to the Infectious Disease Hospital at Peterborough or King's Lynn.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts:

There are no special arrangements in this connection but if any person known or suspected to be a contact left the ship and the place to which he went was known, the authority for that place would be notified.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles:

Any necessary action in this connection would be carried out by the Public Health Inspector. The ship would be disinfected, battened down and sealed off. Clothing and other articles would either be destroyed or disinfected at the hospital at Peterborough or King's Lynn.

SECTION VII - Smallpox

(1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district:

Smallpox Hospital, Ipswich.

(2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews:

In the event of there being a suspected case, the Officer in Charge of the Ambulance Station, Ipswich, telephone number Ipswich 56407, would be contacted. He would make all necessary arrangements for the ambulance and be responsible for ensuring that any necessary vaccination or disinfection of the ambulance crew was carried out.

(3) Names of smallpox consultants available:

	Telephone No. Office		Home	
Dr. J. D. Kershaw	Colchester	5101	Colchester	73176
Dr. R. A. Leader	Ipswich	55511	Ipswich	55388
Dr. W. A. Oliver	Norwich	23111	Norwich	53535
Dr. G. Nisbit (Isle of Ely)	Peterborough	2489	Peterborough	2896
Dr. A. R. Darlow (West Cambridgeshire)	Bedford	68211	Bedford	68124

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox:

In the event of laboratory diagnosis being required, reference would be made to the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen:

(a) Clinic at West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital, King's Lynn:

Males - Tuesdays and Fridays	6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Females - Tuesdays and Wednesdays	3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

(b) Clinic at the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough:

Males - Mondays and Wednesdays	5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Females - Tuesdays	10.30 a.m. to 12 noon
Thursdays	5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The position in regard to in-patient treatment is the same at both hospitals. Although no accommodation is kept permanently reserved for the treatment of in-patients, facilities are made available and cases admitted as and when necessary. All medical practitioners in the district are supplied with the foregoing information, which is also publicised by way of a poster. Shipbrokers and ships' agents operating in the port are notified of the facilities available, so they can give the information to the masters and crews.

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during year Passengers	Crew	Number of ships concerned
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but which have been disposed of before arrival	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	-	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships

No cases of malaria have occurred.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with, or suspected for, plague

These were no ships infected with, or suspected for, plague.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

(1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats:

The Public Health Inspector, as a normal measure, makes an inspection of ships from foreign ports. Should the presence of rats be found, or suspected, he would take any necessary action.

(2) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year:

Any case coming under this heading would be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. No rodents were sent for examination during the year.

(3) Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor:

The deratting of ships is the responsibility of the Public Health Inspector, who uses the fumigation method and/or poison bait method.

(4) Progress in the rat-proofing of ships:

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

TABLE F

Deratting certificates and deratting exemption certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports

This is not directly applicable as the port is not an "approved port" or a "designated approved port".

However, at the end of 1964, the approval of the Ministry of Health was obtained to an arrangement whereby the Port Health Inspectors of the Borough of Wisbech act as the agents of King's Lynn Borough Council in the issue of deratting exemption certificates for the Port of Wisbech.

During the year three deratting exemption certificates were issued for ships from foreign ports.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and number of inspections		Notices served: Statutory notices	Notices served: Other notices	Result of serving notices
Routine	160	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	160	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948

There are no shellfish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority which are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens

This is not a port approved for the landing of aliens and the Section is therefore not applicable.

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease:

This is the responsibility of the Public Health Inspector, who would carry out any necessary action by arrangement with a local undertaker.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

The Wisbech Borough Council owns and operates the Port undertaking. In 1961 a new sanitary block with w.cs. and hand washing facilities was erected on the West bank. Dockers engaged on the East bank use existing sanitary facilities within the National Dock Labour Board offices.

(SGD) M. DOREEN C. MARTIN

Port Medical Officer of Health